

Ser. No. 09/364,794

equally applicable to the patentability of Claim 126 and its dependent claims.

Any inconvenience which this omission may have caused the Examiner is sincerely regretted.

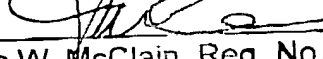
As in the Response, in view of the above amendment and the amendments and remarks in the Response, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of final rejection have been avoided and/or traversed. Applicants' attorney therefore now confirms and continues his request to the Examiner to enter the amendments herein, reconsider and withdraw the rejections and allow the above-identified Claims and also the previously withdrawn claims, and therefore to allow all Claims 1-164, as amended.

Also, should the Examiner elect to maintain one or more of the grounds of rejection, *it is respectfully requested that the amendment herein be entered into the record now as placing the case in better form for appeal.*

Applicants' attorney also repeats his invitation to the Examiner to telephone the attorney on or after December 31, 2001, if the Examiner should believe that allowance of this application might be expedited and appeal avoided by further discussion of any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 25, 2001

By: 
James W. McClain, Reg. No. 24,536
Attorney for Applicants

BROWN, MARTIN, HALLER & McCLAIN, LLP
1660 Union Street
San Diego, California 92101-2926

Telephone: (619) 238-0999
Facsimile: (619) 238-0062
Docket No. 7480 PA1CP2

Ser. No. 09/364,794

APPENDIX

IDENTIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS

In Claim 126:

126. (Twice Amended) A process for conveying ice in the form of a plurality of pieces each having physical characteristics amenable to transport by negative air pressure pneumatic conveyance, from a source of said ice to a remote location under said negative air pressure, which comprises:
- a. providing a hollow elongated ice conduit connecting said source of ice and said remote location and providing ice communication therebetween; a receptor at said remote location for receiving said ice; and a vacuum pump in fluid communication through a vacuum line with said receptor for withdrawing air from said conduit and creating a vacuum comprising said negative air pressure substantially throughout said conduit, said negative air pressure causing said ice to traverse said conduit from said source into said receptor;
 - b. withdrawing air from said receptor and conduit and creating a vacuum, comprising said negative air pressure in said receptor and conduit, said air being withdrawn from said conduit to create said negative air pressure in said conduit at a point along said conduit substantially adjacent to or downstream from said receptor; and
 - c. causing said ice to traverse said conduit from said source into said receptor under the influence of said negative air pressure.